



Dear North Dakota Uniformed Service Members and Family Members Stationed away from home,

Hello, I'm Al Jaeger, North Dakota's Secretary of State and the state's chief election official.

Elections allow us to exercise one of democracy's fundamental rights – voting. Elections give us a voice in our governance, they encourage us to take an active interest in our schools and neighborhoods, and permit us to speak out on issues and causes of interest and importance.

In North Dakota, voting is made very easy through absentee voting. Voting is especially accessible in North Dakota since voters are not required to register before voting.

I encourage uniformed service members and eligible family members to take advantage of the ease of voting in North Dakota during this election year!

Al Jaeger
North Dakota Secretary of State

Voter Qualifications

In order to vote in North Dakota, you must be:

- A U.S. citizen;
- At least 18 years old on the day of election;
- A North Dakota resident; and
- A precinct resident for 30 days preceding the election.

Please note a citizen of the United States who is eighteen years of age or older, has never lived in the United States, and whose parent is a qualified voter in North Dakota may vote absentee in this state for federal offices provided this individual has not registered to vote in any other state or territory of the U.S.

Determining Residence

Voting residence can be summed up simply by the following excerpt from an opinion issued by the North Dakota Attorney General in May of 1995. The opinion states, "The act of voting does not make a person a resident [of North Dakota]. Rather, a person must be a resident prior to voting."

For voting purposes, the terms "residence" and "voting residence" are the same in North Dakota. In determining residence, the following rules must be observed.

- A person's residence is the place where one remains when not called elsewhere for labor or other special or temporary purpose, and to which he or she refers to as "home";
- A person can only have one residence;
- A person's residence cannot be lost until another is gained;

- A person's residence can be changed only by the union of act and intent.

[Section 54-01-26 of the North Dakota Century Code]

The law also states that an individual does not lose a voting residence by temporary assignment away from home.

**North Dakota...
The Only State Without Voter Registration**

North Dakota is the only state without voter registration. Therefore, there are no registration requirements for residents prior to voting.

Voting Still an Option

Even though duty calls many uniformed service members away from their home, their state of North Dakota, and sometimes their country, the right to vote is not diminished. It may be a greater challenge for the voter because the distances separating these individuals from their homes require the use of the absentee voting process.

In 2005, North Dakota lawmakers gave uniformed service members and their family stationed outside the United States the option to receive voting materials by fax or email in order to speed delivery of these important documents to North Dakota residents living far from home and often on the move. It was also determined that, as a last resort, voted ballots may be returned by these same methods provided the voter has access to the necessary technology required to do so. The preferable means of returning voted ballots is still, however, through the standard postal mail service.

Uniformed service members who have been stationed outside of North Dakota long enough that their children, who have never lived in North Dakota, have grown to the age of qualified voters, may wonder about their voting rights. When at least one parent has retained North Dakota residency, children may vote for North Dakota federal offices by virtue of that parent's residential status.

Voting Absentee in North Dakota

Absentee ballots are available to qualified voters wishing to vote using an absentee ballot prior to the date of the election.

Absentee ballot applications may be found online at: <http://www.nd.gov/eforms/Doc/sfn51468.pdf>. Election officials of the county, city, or school district may also furnish absentee ballot applications to qualified electors. A voter may apply for an absentee ballot by providing the following information to the proper election official:

- voter's name;
- voter's current or most recent ND residential address;
- voter's mailing address;
- voter's current contact telephone number;
- the election for which the ballot is being requested;
- the date of the request;
- the voter's affirmation of residence in the precinct for at least thirty days immediately prior to the election;
- voter's signature;
- the voter's status as a citizen living outside the United States, a uniformed service member living away from the voter's North Dakota residence, or a family member

of the uniformed service member living away from the voter's North Dakota residence;

- voter's birth date and year;
- voter's motor vehicle operator's license or non-driver identification number, if available
- voter's fax number (if voting materials are to be sent using this manner of transmission)
- voter's email address (if voting materials are to be sent using this manner of transmission)

Absentee ballot applications may be delivered to the appropriate county auditor by mail, in person, by fax or as a scanned attachment to an email. Uniformed service members stationed away from home and citizens living outside the United States may also receive and return voted ballots by fax and email according to North Dakota law. For more information, please consult with your voting assistance officer, the North Dakota Secretary of State's office, or your county auditor.

According to North Dakota law, absentee ballots are to be made available by the 40th day before the election. Returned absentee ballots must have an official postmark or date stamp on the envelope, email, or fax by the day before the election.

Resources for Military Voters

Uniformed service members stationed away from home with voting questions have many resources to look to for guidance.

Voting Assistance Officers

The best and most accessible resource concerning voting is the voting assistance officers assigned to each unit or base. These individuals are trained to respond to the many voting and residency related questions that arise.

Federal Voting Assistance Program

Toll Free 800-438-8683
Website www.fvap.gov
E-mail vote@fvap.ncr.gov

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) administered by the Secretary of Defense has three distinct goals. These are to:

1. Inform and educate United States citizens worldwide of their right to vote;
2. Foster voting participation; and
3. Protect the integrity of and enhance the electoral process at the Federal, State, and local levels.

The FVAP website contains helpful information on voting procedures in the various states and includes voter registration and absentee voting deadlines and forms for military personnel to complete and return.

North Dakota Secretary of State, Elections Division

Toll Free (800) 352-0867 ext. 8-4146
Website www.nd.gov/sos
E-mail soselect@nd.gov

The North Dakota Secretary of State serves as the state's chief election official. The Elections Division is ultimately responsible for carrying out and overseeing election laws and procedures throughout the state and its various political subdivisions.

As with the FVAP, the North Dakota Secretary of State's office maintains a website containing valuable information for voters, candidates, and the general public. The website also includes contact information for the state's 53 county election officials (county auditors), absentee ballot applications and other useful election-related pamphlets and forms applicable to North Dakota.

North Dakota's County Auditors

North Dakota's 53 county auditors serve as the chief election officials for their respective counties. These are the officials who accept applications for and respond to requests for absentee ballots. Contact information for North Dakota's county auditors may be obtained from the list included in this document, the Secretary of State's office at 800-352-0867 or the Secretary of State's website, www.nd.gov/sos/electvote/voting/index.html.

How to Vote by Absentee Ballot

Whether you are stationed within the United States or overseas, voting by absentee ballot takes extra time. For this reason, please request your ballot as soon as you know that you will need to vote absentee. Applications to receive absentee ballots may be submitted at any time during an election year and voters may request absentee ballots for a single election all elections during that year. Therefore it is best to apply early.

Regardless of your location:

1. An absentee ballot application is available online at <http://www.nd.gov/eforms/Doc/sfn51468.pdf>
2. Submit this application either by mail or fax to your county auditor. (ND county auditor contact information begins on the next page.)
3. If you are stationed away from your North Dakota home, you can provide your fax number or email address on the application for faster delivery.

Please note that the signature on the absentee ballot application will be compared with the signature accompanying the returned voted ballot as a voter security measure.

Free Postage!

Absentee ballots to and from uniformed service members stationed away from home and ND residents living outside the U.S. will be delivered free of postage costs provided the letter is deposited within the United States mail system. Instructions will be provided with voting materials delivered from the county auditor. Additional information can also be found at the FVAP website www.fvap.gov.

ND County Auditor's Contact Information

The list on the following pages provides contact information for North Dakota's 53 county auditors. The county auditor is the official through whom all absentee ballot applications are made.

(see next page)

Adams County Auditor
602 Adams Ave
Box 589
Hettinger ND 58639-0589
701-567-4363 - phone
701-567-2910 - fax
pcarroll@nd.gov

Barnes County Auditor
230 4th Street NW, Room 202
Valley City ND 58072-2947
701-845-8500 - phone
701-845-8548 - fax
emcough@co.barnes.nd.us

Benson County Auditor
311 B Ave S
Box 206
Minnewaukan ND 58351-0206
701-473-5340 - phone
701-473-5571 - fax
bserrickson@nd.gov

Billings County Auditor
Box 168
Medora ND 58645-0168
701-623-4377 - phone
701-623-4761 - fax
jjurgens@nd.gov

Bottineau County Auditor
314 W 5th Street, Ste 10
Bottineau ND 58318-1204
701-228-2225 - phone
701-228-5181 - fax
mstreich@nd.gov

Bowman County Auditor
104 1st St NW, Ste 1
Bowman ND 58623-0439
701-523-3130 - phone
701-523-4899 - fax
stivis@bowmancountynynd.gov

Burke County Auditor
103 Main St SE
PO Box 310
Bowbells ND 58721-0310
701-377-2861 - phone
701-377-2020 - fax
jsiensen@nd.gov

Burleigh County Auditor
221 N 5th St
PO Box 5518
Bismarck ND 58506-5518
701-222-6718 - phone
701-222-7528 - fax
kqlatt@nd.gov

Cass County Auditor
211 9th St S
PO Box 2806
Fargo ND 58108-2806
701-241-5601 - phone
701-241-5728 - fax
montplaisirm@casscountynynd.gov

Cavalier County Auditor
901 3rd Street, Ste 15
Langdon ND 58249-2457
701-256-2229 - phone
701-256-2546 - fax
droppel@nd.gov

Dickey County Auditor
309 N 2nd St
Box 215
Ellendale ND 58436-0215
701-349-3249 ext. 3 - phone
701-349-4639 - fax
bkuska@nd.gov

Divide County Auditor
PO Box 49
Crosby ND 58730-0049
701-965-6351 - phone
701-965-4370 - fax
gjastrze@nd.gov

Dunn County Auditor
PO Box 105
Manning ND 58642-0105
701-573-4448 - phone
701-573-4323 - fax
rehauck@nd.gov

Eddy County Auditor
524 Central Avenue, Ste 201
New Rockford ND 58356-1698
701-947-2434 ext. 2020 - phone
701-947-2279 - fax
mripplin@nd.gov

Emmons County Auditor
PO Box 129
Linton ND 58552-0129
701-254-4807 - phone
701-254-4012 - fax
mohlhauser@nd.gov

Foster County Auditor
474 10th Ave N
Box 104
Carrington ND 58421-0104
701-652-2441 - phone
701-652-2173 - fax
rschlotm@nd.gov

Golden Valley County Auditor
Box 67
Beach ND 58621-0067
701-872-4331 - phone
701-872-4383 - fax
cstedman@midstate.net

Grand Forks County Auditor
151 S 4th
PO Box 5726
Grand Forks ND 58206-5726
701-780-8201 - phone
701-780-8207 - fax
debbie.nelson@gfcounty.com

Grant County Auditor
Courthouse
Box 227
Carson ND 58529-0227
701-622-3275 - phone
701-622-3005 - fax
kbachmeier@nd.gov

Griggs County Auditor
808 Rollin Ave SW
Box 511
Cooperstown ND 58425-0511
701-797-3117 - phone
701-797-3587 - fax
cindy.anton@griggsnd.com

Hettinger County Auditor
Box 668
Mott ND 58646-0668
701-824-2515 - phone
701-824-2717 - fax
rsteiner@nd.gov

Kidder County Auditor
120 E Broadway
PO Box 167
Steele ND 58482-0167
701-475-2632 ext 4 - phone
701-475-2202 - fax
mkeily@nd.gov

LaMoure County Auditor
Box 128
Lamoure ND 58458-0128
701-883-5301 ext. 203 - phone
701-883-4220 - fax
mjohnso@nd.gov

Logan County Auditor
301 Broadway
Napoleon ND 58561-7010
701-754-2425 - phone
701-754-2280 - fax
baschuma@nd.gov

McHenry County Auditor
407 S Main, Rm 201
Townner ND 58788-0147
701-537-5724 - phone
701-537-5969 - fax
dcarpenter@nd.gov

McIntosh County Auditor
PO Box 39
Ashley ND 58413-0039
701-288-3347 - phone
701-288-3671 - fax
gketterl@nd.gov

McKenzie County Auditor
201 5th St W
Box 543
Wattford City ND 58854-0543
701-444-3616 ext. 132 - phone
701-444-4113 - fax
folson@co.mckenzie.nd.us

McLean County Auditor
PO Box 1108
Washburn ND 58577-1108
701-462-8541 - phone
701-462-3542 - fax
lkorgel@nd.gov

Mercer County Auditor
1021 Arthur St
PO Box 39
Stanton ND 58571-0039
701-745-3292 - phone
701-745-3793 - fax
merhardt@nd.gov

Morton County Auditor
210 2nd Avenue NW
Mandan ND 58554-3158
701-667-3300 - phone
701-667-3453 - fax
ptrauger@nd.gov

Mountrail County Auditor
PO Box 69
Stanley ND 58784-0069
701-628-2145 - phone
701-628-2276 - fax
joanh@co.mountrail.nd.us

Nelson County Auditor
210 B Ave W, Ste 201
Lakota ND 58344-7410
701-247-2463 - phone
701-247-2754 - fax
wdavidso@nd.gov

Oliver County Auditor
115 West Main
Box 188
Center ND 58530-0188
701-794-8721 - phone
701-794-3476 - fax
b Fleming@nd.gov

Pembina County Auditor
301 Dakota Street West #1
Cavalier ND 58220-4100
701-265-4231 - phone
701-265-4876 - fax
drobinso@nd.gov

Pierce County Auditor
240 SE 2nd Street – Ste. 6
Rugby ND 58368-1897
701-776-5225 ext 1 - phone
701-776-6942 - fax
kfursath@nd.gov

Ramsey County Auditor
524 4th Avenue NE Unit 6
Devils Lake ND 58301
701-662-7007 - phone
701-662-7049 - fax
befische@nd.gov

Ransom County Auditor
PO Box 668
Lisbon ND 58054-0668
701-683-6113 - phone
701-683-5827 - fax
cqilbert@nd.gov

Renville County Auditor
PO Box 68
Mohall ND 58761-0068
701-756-6301 - phone
701-756-7158 - fax
lfisher@nd.gov

Richland County Auditor
418 2nd Avenue N Ofc 21
Wahpeton ND 58075-4400
701-642-7700 - phone
701-642-7701 - fax
hbailey@co.richland.nd.us

Rolette County Auditor
Box 939
Rolla ND 58367-0939
701-477-5665 - phone
701-477-6339 - fax
vmcloud@nd.gov

Sargent County Auditor
355 Main St S, Ste 1
Forman ND 58032-0177
701-724-6241 ext. 101 - phone
701-724-6244 - fax
sherry.hosford@co.sargent.nd.us

Sheridan County Auditor
Box 439
McClusky ND 58463-0439
701-363-2205 - phone
701-363-2953 - fax
smurray@nd.gov

Sioux County Auditor
Box L
Fort Yates ND 58538-0529
701-854-3481 - phone
701-854-3854 - fax
bhettich@nd.gov

Slope County Auditor
Box NN
Amidon ND 58620-0449
701-879-6276 - phone
701-879-6278 - fax
luzalsky@nd.gov

Stark County Auditor
Box 130
Dickinson ND 58602-0130
701-456-7630 - phone
701-456-7634 - fax
aschulz@starkcountynnd.gov

Steele County Auditor
Box 275
Finley ND 58230-0275
701-524-2110 - phone
701-524-1715 - fax
leadbet@nd.gov

Stutsman County Auditor
511 2nd Avenue SE Room 102
Jamestown ND 58401-4299
701-252-9035 - phone
701-251-6325 - fax
nojohnso@nd.gov

Towner County Auditor
315 2nd St
PO Box 603
Cando ND 58324-0603
701-968-4340 ext 1 - phone
701-968-4342 - fax
kmhaugen@nd.gov

Traill County Auditor
114 W Caledonia
Box 429
Hillsboro ND 58045-0429
701-636-4458 - phone
701-636-5418 - fax
rebecca.braaten@co.trail.nd.us

Walsh County Auditor
600 Cooper Avenue
Grafton ND 58237-1535
701-352-2851 - phone
701-352-3340 - fax
skinsala@nd.gov

Ward County Auditor
315 3rd Street SE
PO Box 5005
Minot ND 58702-5005
701-857-6420 - phone
701-857-6424 - fax
Devra.Smestad@co.ward.nd.us

Wells County Auditor
700 Railway St N
PO Box 37
Fessenden ND 58438-0037
701-547-3521 - phone
701-547-3719 - fax
irudel@nd.gov

Williams County Auditor
205 E Broadway
Box 2047
Williston ND 58802-2047
701-577-4500 - phone
701-577-4510 - fax
bethi@co.williams.nd.us

North Dakota Secretary of State
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600 East Boulevard Avenue Dept. 108
Bismarck ND 58505-0500

Elections Division
800-352-0867 ext. 4146
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soselect@nd.gov